



ST PAUL'S CHURCH  
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Registered Charity Number 1172605

From the Vicar and Church Officers

October 2021

Welcome to **St Paul's Stewardship Campaign** annually held in October! Throughout the month parts of the sermon and a short presentation during the notices at the 10am Eucharist (repeated in the weekly Newsletter) will focus on our response in service and money to God's bountiful goodness.

We would like to thank you for having continued to support the life and work of St Paul's in these difficult days, as we had to face with everyone ongoing Covid issues and then gradually approached the lifting of restrictions, and we hope that we have offered you some ways of feeling supported throughout. We have continued to worship, albeit in slightly different ways, and the focus of St Paul's on looking outwards to those in need and the needs of our whole planet has become sharper. God's abiding presence in the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord is a factor that does not alter even amidst the social, economic, ecological and medical crises of 2021. We ask you therefore to approach this year's Stewardship Campaign in the same spirit as ever - that of true commitment, sensible judgement and open generosity.

Most of our rotas for the expression of your time and talents are now fully functional because of the lifting of Covid restrictions, and we have the intention of soon reinstating those still suspended: we ask you therefore to sign up for them as usual so that as soon as possible we can fully restore the regular functioning of our system of volunteers.

You will note also that last year's fresh opportunities to volunteer as members of two new action groups at St Paul's have established themselves as special priorities - one focusing on the issues of Racial Justice, the other on Green Issues and our aspirations to rise to the challenge of being an Eco Church. These last two years may have been a dark time, but it has provided the perfect backdrop for recognising and sharing concerns about the ways we live as Christians and as human beings.

If you are new to St Paul's this year, welcome. We would be delighted if you could offer to help with any of our main fund-raising events, or join a rota, even if you can only offer occasional help. We also ask you to consider joining our planned giving scheme, either by promising a regular cash contribution, or, ideally, a standing order. The church is run from funds we generate ourselves, and in order to continue our work we rely on the support of our congregation.

According to our Lord's own words He came so that we might have life, and life in abundance, full measure, pressed down, overflowing. What we have received is no half measure and therefore as ever in Stewardship we ask you to ponder what you can offer to the thriving of the life of the church.

As we are now officially a Silver Award Eco Church, we have decided not to distribute paper copies of the stewardship pack, but to collect the information through the new Stewardship page on our website ([www.stpaulsclapham.org/stewardship](http://www.stpaulsclapham.org/stewardship)). There you will be able to answer the following questions in addition to filling in the questionnaire mentioned above.

**What can I give in terms of time and talents?**

**What can I pledge in planned giving?**

We ask you to use the links on the stewardship page of our website to indicate your preferences by our

**Dedication/Stewardship Festival on Sunday 31 October 2021**